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Ray Reopens King Death Fight

James Earl Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Nine motions were filed here yesterday by lawyers for James Earl Ray, who demanded that they be allowed to examine the state's evidence in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams has set a hearing on the motions for Friday.

Prosecutors have asked Williams to reject a motion by Ray that his guilty plea and 99-year sentence in the King death be set aside. Ray is trying for a new trial.

The defense, in turn, has asked that it be allowed to look at the rifle allegedly used in the death of the civil rights leader, any bullet clip connected to the weapon and a window sill taken from the rooming house from which the fatal shot was allegedly fired on April 4, 1968.

Another of the motions asks authorization for test firing of the rifle so scientific comparisons can be made of bullets from the gun and bullet fragments removed from King's body.

The defense said it also wants permission to look at the Memphis police radio log relating to an alleged chase of an automobile following the slaying.

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